

REMARKS

The above entitled application is an R.C.E. of an application that received a Final Office Action dated April 3, 2004. The Applicant would like to take this opportunity to address the rejections in the Final Office Action.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-6, 8-12, 14-18, 20-23, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Houghton in view of DE 1,605,178. The Examiner states that the German reference teaches a centering device that prevents unwanted rotation between elements 1 and 6. The Applicant respectfully traverses this contention. The German reference does not expressly teach preventing unwanted rotation between elements 1 and 6. This reference merely teaches that the plate 6 can fit within element 1. Additionally, it is not inherent that the rectangular shapes would inherently teach anti-rotation. It is equally inherent that the plate 6 has the same shape as element 1 so that the two members are flush when in contact with each other. The German reference is void of any suggestion to prevent rotation between moving members of a vibration isolator by integrating non-circular seats and the members.

The application also submits that the German reference would not teach anti-rotation, because there is no potential movement between elements 1 and 6 of the assembly. The German reference discloses a connector wherein a pin 5 is inserted into a sleeve 17. There is never any relative movement, or potential relative movement, between elements 1 and 6 even when the pin is pulled out of the sleeve. Without any potential problems for relative movement, one skilled in the art would not look to this reference to solve the problem of relative movement between moving members within a vibration isolator. There would be no motivation to look at a reference that does not contain the same problem that is addressed by the claims of the above entitled application. The German reference is addressing the issue of the lack of centering between the pin and the sleeve, not potential rotation between elements 1 and 6. The Examiner states that it is inherent that the rectangular element 6 cannot be rotated within the rectangular seat of element 1. This is not the test for obviousness. Inherency is a consideration for anticipation. Obviousness requires motivation to combine the references. This reference lacks any motivation to even consider

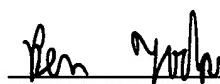
this art let alone a teaching to solve the problem of rotation between moving members in a vibration isolator. For all of the above reasons the Applicants submits that the claims are patentable distinct from the prior art.

The Examiner rejected claims 7, 13, 19, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Houghton in view of DE 1,605,178 in further view of Nelson. The Applicant submits that these claims are allowable for being dependent on allowable independent claims.

In view of the above it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections in the Final Office Action is requested. Allowance of claims 1-26 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Catherine M. Sanders

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Date